Amendments to the claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of claims:

Claims 1-10 (cancelled).

11 (currently amended): A method of amplifying a target RNA comprising the steps of:

a) producing double-stranded DNA having a T7 promoter sequence by using the target RNA as a template,

b) transcribing the double-stranded DNA in a reaction solution in the presence of an RNA polymerase from phage T7 and ribonucleotide triphosphates, wherein the ribonucleotide triphosphates include:

- adenosine triphosphate, uridine triphosphate, cytidine triphosphate, and guanosine triphosphate at a final concentration, together, of 2 mM to 3.5 mM and
- inosine triphosphate at a final concentration of 3.2 mM to 4.4 mM;

to produce transcripted RNA, wherein the transcripted RNA is

- an RNA having the same sequence as the target RNA or
- RNA consisting of a base sequence complementary to the target RNA base sequence[;], and

c) producing double-stranded DNA having a promoter sequence by using the transcripted RNA as the template,

the method being performed in the presence of (i) tris-HCl buffer having a pH of 8.5-8.9 at a final concentration of 50 mM to 80 mM and (ii) magnesium chloride at a final concentration of 12 mM to 20 mM.

Claims 12-18 (cancelled).

19 (currently amended): A method of assaying a target RNA comprising

- amplifying the target RNA according to claim 11, wherein the transcribing step occurs in the further presence of a fluorescently labeled probe ~~that hybridizes~~, wherein fluorescence of the fluorescently labeled probe alters upon hybridization of the probe with the transcripted RNA, and
- monitoring fluorescence of the reaction solution.

Claims 20-22 (cancelled).